

Memorandum

DATE: 6/11/01

TO: All UST Staff

FROM: Wayne Gregory

RE: Reporting of Suspected Releases with SIR

There has been some confusion created over when tank owners using SIR as a release detection method must report suspected releases. Information distributed at a recent meeting of Compliance Inspectors entitled "Meeting Notes- March 14, 2001" inadvertently added to the confusion. This memo states the Division's position on reporting suspected releases when SIR is used.

Rule 1200-1-15-.04(h) 6. states:

The owner/operator shall report a suspected release in accordance with Rule 1200-1-15-.05:

- (i) *When the statistical inventory reconciliation determination is reported as a "Fail"; or*
- (ii) *When two consecutive "Inconclusive" statistical inventory reconciliation determinations are reported.*

Rule 1200-1-15-.05(1)c. allows an exception for reporting suspected releases under certain circumstances:

Monitoring results from a release detection method required under rule 1200-1-15-.04(2) that indicate a release may have occurred unless:

- 1. The monitoring device is found to be defective, and is immediately repaired, recalibrated, or replaced, and additional monitoring within thirty (30) days does not confirm the initial results;*

It is obvious that mechanical or electronic devices occasionally require repair or replacement and the intent is that service be done as soon as possible. A provision is made for a confirmation to be made *within thirty (30) days* by additional monitoring. SIR is a procedure and not a monitoring device, however SIR practices often employ "devices" (totalizers, electronic liquid level indicators, even console components that provide electronic sales data, etc). These components sometimes need service and it is possible that a 'bad' component could result in a SIR "inconclusive" or "fail" result.

The tank owner must begin a SIR result confirmation procedure described in 1200-1-15-.05(1)c. when the first monthly inconclusive result is received, not the second consecutive month. Any month a SIR result other than "pass" is received, the owner must immediately investigate to determine the cause(s) for the non-passing result. The Division would expect this approach with any monthly monitoring method if an inconclusive result were given. SIR users are allowed 30 days to collect additional data and produce a result after repairing, replacing, or recalibrating the failed device if there is an equipment problem. The tank owner must be able to provide documentation for all work done. If the SIR result for the month following the service work is anything other than "pass", the owner must report a suspected release in accordance with 1200-1-15-.04(h)6(ii). This is the second consecutive inconclusive, but it may cover a period longer than two calendar months. The tank owner must conduct a release investigation under 1200-1-15-.05(3) within 30 days upon receiving the second consecutive inconclusive. Be alert to SIR vendors using synonyms for "inconclusive" that mean the same thing.

Should a tank owner receive a "fail" SIR result, he must report a suspected release according to 1200-1-15-.04(h)6(i) within 72 hours. SIR "fail" results are treated the same as "fail" results from other leak detection methods. The tank owner must also conduct a release investigation under 1200-1-15-.05(3) within 30 days.